The Commercial Appeal Memphis, Friday, September 2, 1977

DWI Charges Are Dismissed

Charges of driving while intoxicated were dismissed yesterday but a congressional staff attorney investigating the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was found guilty of failure to maintain proper control in connection with a traffic accident July 30.

Jeremy Ray Akers, 35, of Washington entered a guilty plea to the failure to maintain control charge after City Court Judge Robert Love dismissed DWI and public drunkenness charges.

No police officers appeared to testify. Love fined Akers $25 plus $20 court costs and a $2 state fee which Akers paid.

Phillip Kuhn, attorney for Akers, introduced a copy of a letter which he said he mailed to the city prosecutor's office Aug. 18 requesting a trial yesterday.

"I don,t know why the police are not here. The city certainly had adequate notice," Kuhn said.

Akers was arrested after an accident at 3:40 a.m. July 30 at I-240 and Getwell when the rental car he was driving struck a car being towed eastbound on the interstate by a wrecker.

A passenger in Akers' car, Susanne Norris, 33, of 855 Yates, received a broken arm and cuts and bruises in the accident. Both cars were heavily damaged.

Kuhn said Akers had refused to take an intoximeter test "because of his own injuries and his concern for the welfare of the young woman who was with him."